

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 16-30 on p. 2 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph. This paragraph corresponds to paragraph [0032] of Applicant's published U.S. Application (Pub. No.: U.S. 2006/0160158A1).

-- The present invention further relates to a method for identifying molecules that bind to the β' pocket through the use of an assay for molecules that bind to RNAP in a β' -pocket-specific fashion. In one embodiment, *Escherichia coli* RNAP or a fragment thereof containing the β' pocket, is used as the test protein for binding, and a derivative of said RNAP or RNAP fragment having at least one a substitution, an insertion, or a deletion within the β' pocket is used as the control protein for target-site specificity of binding. "Hits" can be analyzed for binding and inhibition of Gram-negative-bacterial RNAP, Gram-positive-bacterial RNAP, and eukaryotic RNAP I, ~~RNAP III~~ RNAP II and RNAP III, *in vivo* and *in vitro*. "Hits" can also be characterized structurally by x-ray diffraction analysis of co-crystals with RNAP or an RNAP fragment containing the β' pocket.--